

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCCT-02 SY-10 USSS-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 EB-11 /149 R

DRAFTED BY S/CCT:LHOFFACKER/HLK

APPROVED BY P - JOSEPH J. SISCO

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

S/S - MR. LUERS

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P 062307Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045445

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: TERRORISM: THE ROME FIVE

REF: CAIRO 1045

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

1. WE APPRECIATE REPORT CONTAINED REFTEL AND LOOK FORWARD TO FOLLOW-UP REPORTING ON DISPOSITION OF TERRORISTS IN QUESTION.

2. REQUEST THAT YOU RAISE MATTER IN LOW KEY WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: WE HAVE NOTED IN PRESS THAT TERRORISTS WHO COMMITTED ATROCITY AT ROME AIRPORT DECEMBER 17 AND WHO WERE DETAINED IN KUWAIT ARE NOW IN EGYPT AWAITING PLO PROSECUTION. THIS MATTER IS ONE OF GREAT CONCERN TO AMERICAN PUBLIC, WHICH, LIKE THE INTER-CONFIDENTIAL

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NATIONAL COMMUNITY, WAS OUTRAGED BY THIS SENSELESS ATTACK

ON INNOCENTS, INCLUDING MOROCCANS AND AMERICANS. WE HAVE MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE KUWAIT GOVERNMENT URGING THEM TO TRY TERRORISTS OR TO TRANSFER THEM TO APPROPRIATE JURISDICTION FOR TRIAL -- NOT TURN THEM FREE, AS HAS BEEN PATTERN IN PAST. WE WOULD LIKE GOE TO BE AWARE OF OUR EARLIER APPROACH TO KUWAIT, WHICH SETS FORTH USG POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL LAW ASPECTS OF CASE. (YOU MAY MAKE AVAILABLE TO FAHMY TEXT OF NOTE WE GAVE KUWAITIS IN STATE 27525, WHICH BEING REPEATED SEPARATELY.)

3. FYI. WE DO NOT WANT TO MAKE FORMAL DEMARCHE TO GOE UNLESS THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT TERRORISTS WILL NOT BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. AT SAME TIME, WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT EGYPTIANS BE AWARE THAT THERE WILL BE ADVERSE PUBLIC REACTION HERE IF THEY ARE NOT BROUGHT TO JUSTICE, WHICH WOULD CAST SHADOW OVER OUR IMPROVING RELATIONS. FOREGOING APPROACH IS DESIGNED TO GET MESSAGE ACROSS TO GOE WITHOUT UNNECESSARILY CREATING ISSUE BETWEEN US WHERE HOPEFULLY NONE EXISTS. END FYI. KISSINGER

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